



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Orange County

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Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Gasoline Consumption Up 1.6%, Diesel Up 6.8% in Fourth Quarter 2013

Sacramento –California's gasoline consumption rose 1.6% in the fourth quarter 2013, faster than any quarter since 2004, associated with relatively low prices during that period and an improving economy, according to data released today by California State Board of Equalization (BOE) Vice Chair Michelle Steel.

The small increase in gasoline consumption likely reflects increases in employment and generally falling prices throughout most of the year. In calendar year 2013 gasoline consumption rose 0.2 percent, following two years of declines.

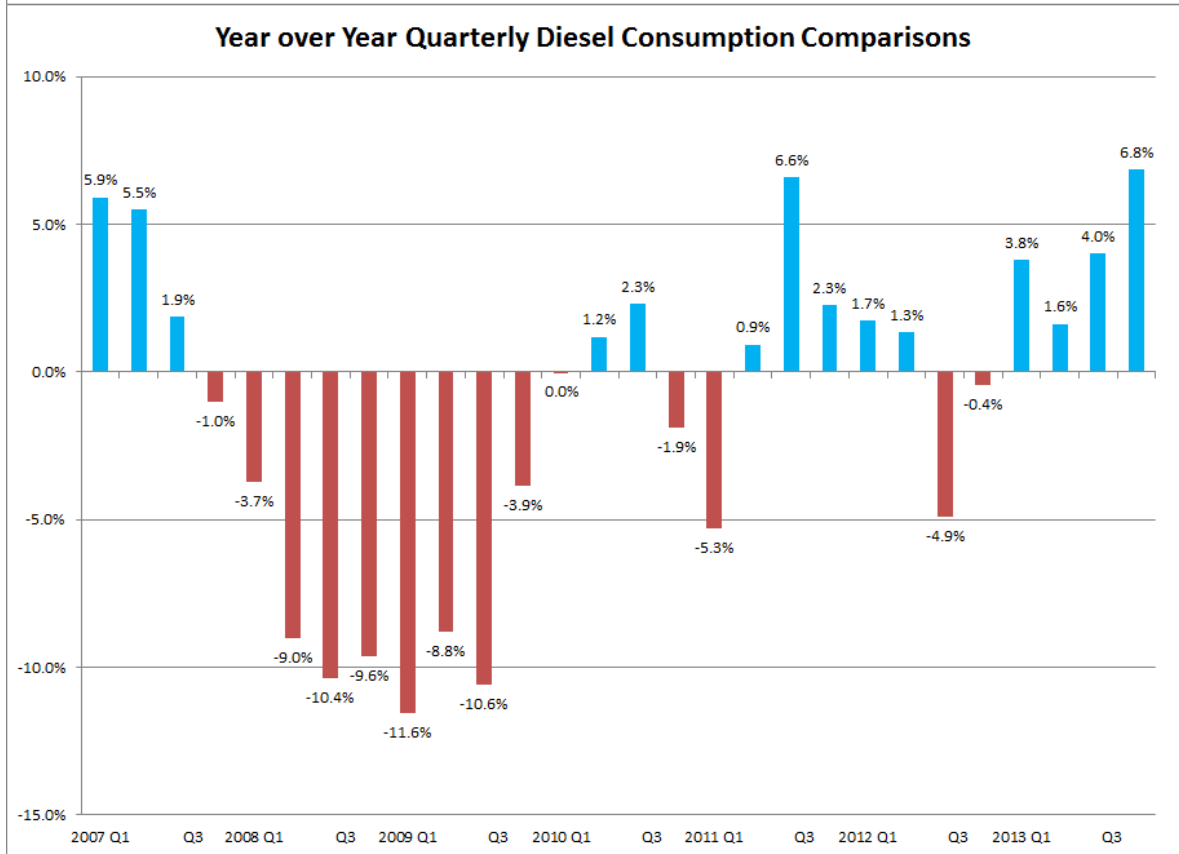
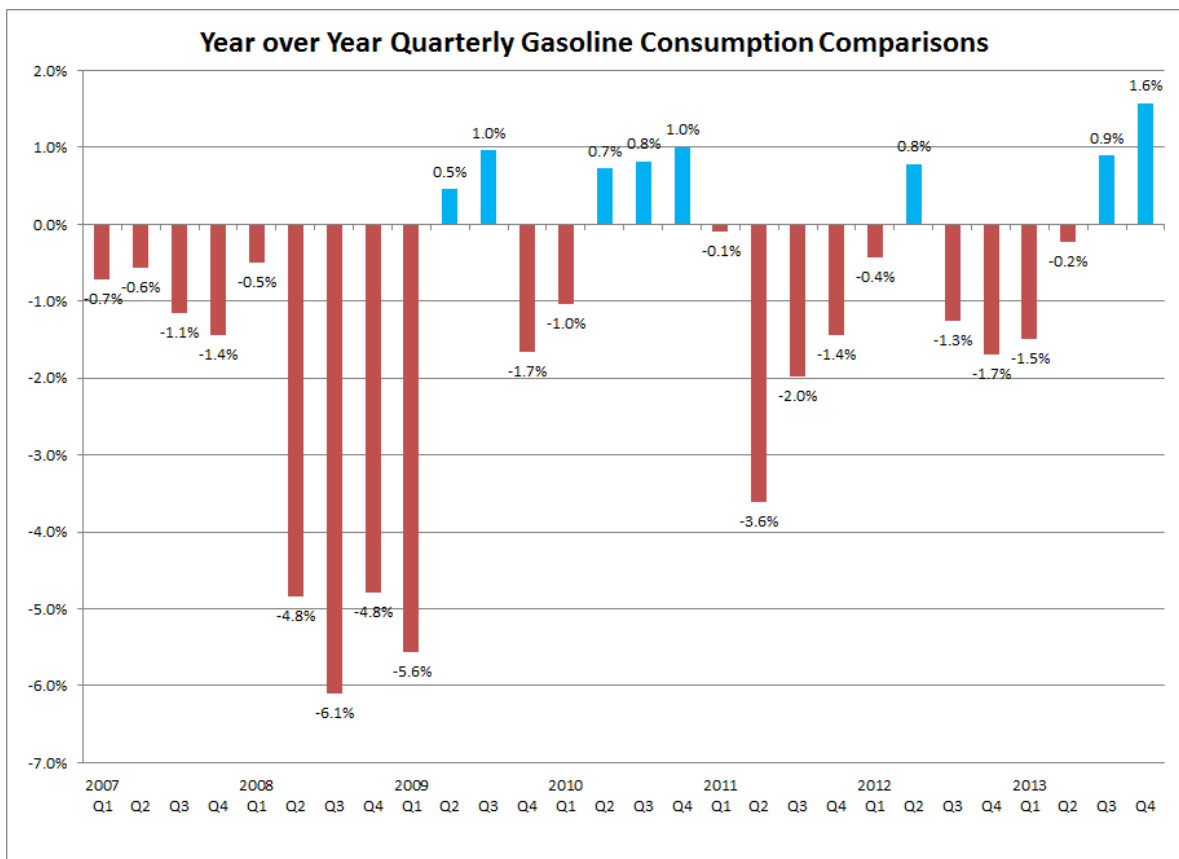
The BOE's [state taxable gasoline gallons report](#) reveals Californians consumed 3.631 billion gallons of gasoline in the fourth quarter, a 1.6 percent increase from 3.575 billion gallons used in a year over year comparison to the fourth quarter of last year. The average price of gasoline was \$3.70 per gallon in California during the fourth quarter, and nationally the average price of gasoline was \$3.37, according to the [Energy Information Administration](#). The BOE's [fuel revenues](#) show quarterly estimates of excise taxes and sales and use taxes associated with gasoline for the fourth quarter are \$381 million in sales taxes and \$1.4 billion in excise taxes.


Diesel consumption rose 6.8 percent in the fourth quarter, faster than any quarter since 2005. For calendar year 2013, diesel consumption increased 4.1%, reflecting increased movement of goods associated with an improving economy. The BOE's [state taxable diesel gallons report](#) shows California's diesel fuel consumption was 698 million gallons, compared to 653 million gallons during the fourth quarter of last year. In California, the average price of diesel fuel in the fourth quarter was \$4.09 per gallon, and the nationwide average price of diesel fuel was \$3.87. The BOE's [fuel revenues](#) show quarterly estimates of excise taxes and sales and use taxes associated with diesel for the fourth quarter are \$245 million in sales taxes and \$81 million in excise taxes.

Editor's Note: The charts below compare year-over-year quarterly gasoline and diesel consumption.

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Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects \$56 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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